

I



Kingsbridge Rural District Council



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year, 1968

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.
Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246/7.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:	JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	D.J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:	T.A.J. FOWLER, M.A.P.H.I.
Clerical Assistant:	MRS. E.E. OSMAN
Medical Officer of Health's Central Office:	AREA NO.5 SOUTH WEST DEVON, PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, COUNCIL OFFICES, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH, DEVON. TEL: PLYMOUTH 36644
Medical Officer of Health's Clerk:	MISS G. PROWSE, TEL: PLYMOUTH 36644

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1968.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1968, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/69 dated January, 1969. Included in this Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

The population increased by 120 persons to 12,020 people, but deaths exceeded births by 43 persons, which means that 163 people migrated into the area. The number of inhabited houses increased by 94 to 4,878, and the number of persons living in each house dropped slightly over the previous year.

The Standardised Birth Rate dropped to 12.9 which is lower than the National Average of 16.9 per thousand population. Deaths showed an increase and the Standardised Death Rate at 11.8 nearly equals the National Average of 11.9 per thousand population. There was one infant death giving a mortality rate of 7.8 per 1,000 live births. A total of 90 deaths (52%) was due to diseases of the heart and circulation, 41 deaths (24%) due to cancer, and as one would expect in the clean fresh air of South Devon only 20 deaths (12%) were due to respiratory infections.

Water Supply

Mains water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board, and the supply has been excellent. The water is regularly sampled by the Board, and during the year no adverse Reports were received.

There are a number of small private supplies which are inspected and sampled as necessary.

Infections Common to Farm Animals and Man

Elsewhere in this Report is included a paragraph dealing with infections on farms. In the four large rural districts covered by your Medical Officer of Health (Kingsbridge, Plympton, Tavistock, and Totnes), a marked increase has been noted in the number of infections on farms common to man and animals. Those in particular which occurred in 1968 were ANTHRAX, SALMONELLA INFECTIONS and BRUCELLOSIS. After each incident was reported to the Public Health Department, the farmer was advised as to what to do to minimise the risk of spreading the disease to humans. There were three outbreaks of Anthrax, 70

outbreaks of Salmonellosis (one outbreak resulted in approximately 70 cases of food poisoning amongst humans) and 3 outbreaks of Brucellosis. Two of the Brucellosis incidents affected herds where the farmer was a producer retailer of raw untreated milk, and it was necessary to arrange for the milk to be pasteurised before sale to the public until the infection on the farms had been eradicated. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food has a voluntary Brucellosis Eradication Scheme, but although Devon is one of the foremost counties in getting farmers interested, I feel the Scheme would be more efficacious if it were made compulsory or farmers were given more financial inducements to join it.

The Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health (now the Department of Health and Social Security) in his 1967 Annual Report states that 'untreated milk is unsafe milk', but whilst pasteurisation of infected milk renders it safe, how much better it would be to have uninfected milk to start with, and not rely solely upon pasteurisation to safeguard human health.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the staff and Councillors for their help and encouragement during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1969.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1968.

SEWERAGE -

BIGBURY-ON-SEA and CHALLABOROUGH

As a result of the Ministry's suggestions regarding our proposals for sewerage this area and for providing a contact stabilisation treatment plant on the Warren, steps have been taken to find an alternative disposal site.

A site to the north of Bigbury-on-Sea has been selected, and this will necessitate the pumping of sewage from Challaborough to a height of approximately 250 feet and, what is more important, will entail the pumping of all sewage from Bigbury-on-Sea to a height of approximately 210 feet. There is no doubt that this scheme will result in high running costs, particularly in relation to electricity charges.

The revised scheme is presenting some problems to the Consultants but it is anticipated that the full detailed revised scheme will be submitted for the Council's consideration in the near future.

FROGMORE-CHILLINGTON

This scheme is to all intents and purposes complete. The new disposal works which is designed to cater for a population of 1880 is the largest in the district and for the first time in any new scheme provides for covered sludge beds and a flow recorder.

BROWNSTON

No progress has been made in relation to a scheme for this hamlet.

LODDISWELL

Due to the anticipated expenditures on the Bigbury-on-Sea and

Challaborough scheme and the urgency of that scheme on public health grounds, the proposals for extending sewers and constructing new disposal works has not commenced.

Proposals are in hand, however, to construct a road into the existing works which will enable maintenance standards to be increased and other minor proposals are being carried out to effect temporary improvements.

STOKE FLEMING

Due to delays in receiving the development plan for this area, the Consultants have not yet submitted their proposals for the extension of sewers and the construction of a disposal works for this village.

WEST BUCKLAND

The report of the Consultants is still awaited regarding the sewerage of this area.

MODBURY

Preliminary surveys have been made in connection with a new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this village.

MAINTENANCE

During the year one of the Foremen on sewage maintenance took up a new appointment. He was not replaced immediately owing to possible reorganisation of departments. In view of the difficulties that exist in looking after present installations, it is imperative that this man be replaced immediately and that consideration be given to the formation of a third maintenance gang in order to provide a more regular and efficient system of control.

A report is being prepared which will indicate the extent of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems throughout the district, and I hope the Council, after the receipt of this report, will take positive action to improve the maintenance of such installations.

HOUSING

The number of unfit houses represented during the year decreased substantially, but this was due in part to lack of staff. The number of unfit houses left to be dealt with is relatively small, and the houses concerned are scattered throughout the district. Future representations will therefore deal with individual unfit houses rather than slum clearance areas.

The demand for old cottages continues to grow, and whilst I welcome the trend to repair and modernise such properties I am sorry

to see such cottages 'lost' to local inhabitants.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The suspension of the discretionary Improvement Grant continued throughout the year, but three grants were given in respect of applications previously approved.

Applications for standard Improvement Grants totalled eighteen, eight of these being for the additional standard grant.

Unfortunately it was not possible to implement our plans to encourage owners to improve properties by means of standard Improvement Grants but I hope a start can be made on this work in the near future. It is proposed in the new Housing Bill to increase the sum paid for the provision of the basic items. This in itself should lead to an increased demand.

MEAT INSPECTION

There was a marked reduction (20%) in the number of visits made to the slaughterhouses within the district, and a corresponding reduction in the number of animals inspected.

POULTRY INSPECTION

2,230 poultry were inspected during the course of the year. This represents only two months' output from one station as, unfortunately, due to lack of staff it was not possible to continue this work. It is important, however, that in view of the increasing popularity of poultry for the table this branch of our work be adequately covered in future.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Although the position with regard to Beesands Caravan site has not yet been resolved, a great deal of work has been put into achieving a satisfactory solution to the problem of this site. It should not be too long before a final solution is attained.

Improvements of other sites continues, and standards are relatively good.

REFUSE

During the course of the year two disposal tips closed, thereby necessitating disposal of all refuse at one central point - Molescombe. This site now provides tipping facilities for a static population of 25,000 plus all the visitors in the South Hams area during the summer season. The impact of the volume of refuse disposed of at the Quarry is pronounced and somewhat alarming, but conditions at the site have improved tremendously since the purchase

of a crawler tractor, and nuisances that occurred from time to time have been eliminated.

The closing of the two disposal tips on the perimeter of the district necessitated the total reorganisation of the collection services, following a work study carried out by the Department, and in order to overcome the problem of long distance hauls to the refuse tip it became necessary to purchase an additional large vehicle. The two 50 cubic yard Dennis/Norba refuse vehicles have proved most efficient, and have resulted in a considerable reduction in 'lost' time spent travelling to and fro to refuse tips. Due to the nature of some villages and by-ways, however, it is still necessary to use some small lorries.

This service is one that has to be kept under constant review, due to the fact that there is a relatively large building programme in operation, and that the quantity of refuse produced per household is steadily increasing.

OIL POLLUTION

In February approximately 2,000 yards of beaches in the Thurlestone and Hope Cove areas were grossly polluted by thick tarry oil. Clearance was carried out by direct labour and necessitated the closure of the Refuse Department for three days in order to utilise all available staff.

Under the auspices of the Devon County Council, moves are now afoot to organise ways of dealing with serious problems of oil pollution on a County basis.

ADMINISTRATION

In last year's report I referred to certain fields of Public Health work which had been neglected. A similar position obtained throughout this year. This was due in part to my absence from the office and also to a lack of technical staff.

I hope the opportunity to rectify this position will arise when the reorganisation of the Architect's and Public Health Departments takes place next year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D.J. COLE,

Chief Public Health Inspector

June, 1969.

A P P E N D I X

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1968

Table 1

Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Rural District

	12,020	(11,900)		
Natural increase or decrease	..	..	-43	(-7)
Migration in or out	..	..	+163	(+97)
Total increase or decrease	..	..	+120	(+90)
Population at 1961 Census	..	..	11,738	

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Kingsbridge Rural District in Acres 70,818

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (1.4.68)

Number of Inhabited Houses	4,878	(4,784)
Number of Houses per acre	..	..	0.069	(0.067)
Number of Persons per acre	..	..	0.169	(0.168)
Number of Persons per House	..	..	2.464	(2.487)
Dwellings owned by the Council			731	(731)

Rateable Value of District

£356,928 (£346,743)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£1,406 (£1,357)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1968

Table 2

Figures for 1967 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per</u> <u>1,000 population</u>	12.9	(14.3)	
Area Comparability Factor for Births	1.22	(1.22)	
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	78	50	128
Legitimate	75	49	124
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Number of Still Births	0	1	1

DEATHS:

<u>Standardised Death Rate per</u> <u>1,000 population</u>	11.8	(9.6)	
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.83	(0.78)	
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages</u> - Total	85	86	171
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	0	1	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	1	1
Number under 1 week of age	0	1	1
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate per</u> <u>1,000 Live Births</u>	7.8	(7.19)	

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

<u>Birth Rate</u>	16.9	(17.2)
<u>Death Rate</u>	11.9	(11.2)
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u> (Infants under 1 year of age)	18.0	(18.3)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1968

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Other Tuberculosis, inc. late effects	0	1	1
2. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1
3. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	2	5
4. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7
5. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	0	6	6
6. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1	1
7. Leukaemia	1	1	2
8. Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	10	10	20
9. Diabetes Mellitus	0	2	2
10. Anaemias	0	1	1
11. Mental Disorders	0	1	1
12. Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	0	1
13. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	2	2
14. Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
15. Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	17	38
16. Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	9	12
17. Cerebrovascular Disease	15	8	23
18. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	8	4	12
19. Influenza	1	1	2
20. Pneumonia	4	5	9
21. Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1	4
22. Asthma	1	1	2
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
24. Peptic Ulcer	0	1	1
25. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
26. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
27. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
28. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary system	1	1	2
29. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal system	0	1	1
30. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	0	1	1
31. Symptoms and Ill-defined conditions	1	0	1
32. Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	1
33. All other External Causes	1	0	1
<hr/>			
Total all Causes	85	86	171
<hr/>			

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1968

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	AGE GROUP IN YEARS					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	56	3	10	43	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	26	0	12	13	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table 2

DISEASE	TOTAL	INCIDENCE BY QUARTERS			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	56	0	18	38	0
Whooping Cough	26	5	16	0	5
Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1	0	0	1	0

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirements of the World Health Regulations certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department.

INFECTIONS COMMON TO FARM ANIMALS AND MAN

27 outbreaks of Salmonella infections and one outbreak of Anthrax occurred amongst farm animals during the year. Bovines were affected except in one outbreak when 100 turkeys had to be destroyed.

We have been particularly fortunate in this area in that this type of infection was confined to animals. One adjoining authority experienced a serious Salmonella outbreak in human beings arising from a farm infection.

In conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory Service certain field work is to be carried out next year in connection with establishments providing meat for human consumption.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the 1948 Act, or under the (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated in Kingsbridge. The area is also served by hospitals at Plymouth, Totnes, Dartmouth, and Torbay.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the after care of such persons.

Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer at Exeter.

3. Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

4. General Medical and Dental Services

Three General medical practitioners live in villages in the District and also seventeen doctors and ten dentists from adjoining towns serve the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1968

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	..	147
Litter Act	..	..	..	..	20
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	180
Visits in connection with complaints	..	..	..	..	-
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	1
Inspections of Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	36
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	..				154
Pests	..	..	..	..	1
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	..	..	..	..	13
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	3
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Samples	..	..	..	..	-
Water Samples	..	..	..	..	34
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	66
Wrecks of the Sea	..	..	..	..	-
Slaughter of Animals Act	..	..	..	..	7
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	..	..	37
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage	..	..	..	..	54
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	35
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	14
Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	23
Rent Act	..	..	..	..	-
Waste Food Order	..	..	..	..	2
Factories	..	..	..	..	2
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..	13
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	..	..	..	..	3
Streams and Watercourses	..	..	..	..	18
Oil Pollution	..	..	..	..	88
Total					955

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year 293 visits were made to slaughterhouses. The following carcasses were inspected:-

Cows	..	..	..	..	13
Heifers	..	..	..	..	81
Steers	..	..	..	..	175
Calves	..	..	..	..	43
Sheep	..	..	..	..	1,629
Pigs	..	..	..	..	52
Total					1,993

The total weight of meat condemned was 1 ton 3 cwts. 1 qr. 19 lbs. Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

The income from meat inspection charges amounted to £76.16s.3d.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exc. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	256	13	43	1,629	52	-
Number inspected	256	13	43	1,629	52	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	-	4	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	6	1	5	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	7.42	61.54	2.32	0.55	7.68	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	-	-	-	-	1.92	-
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:

Bakehouses	..	..	..	6
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	12
Fishmongers and Fryers	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream - Retailers	..	..	..	89
General Stores	..	..	..	63
Dairies	..	..	..	3
Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	23
Hotels, etc.	..	..	..	63
Inns	..	..	..	41
Sweet Confectioners	..	..	..	8

Registration of Premises under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream	..	..	89
Manufacture of Preserved Food	..	..	11
Amount of food condemned during the year	..	..	4cwtc.53 lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 16	..	..	2

Ice Cream Sampling:

No samples of Ice Cream were taken for examination during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Licensed Sites and Caravans:

Number of Sites	..	..	25
Number of Caravans licensed	..	..	1,180
Licensed Individual caravans	..	..	17

Eight sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.

In addition, there are two other mobile caravan sites run by the Caravan and Camping Clubs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 of the ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (2)	Inspection (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupier Prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories without mechanical power)	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories with mechanical power)	27	2	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	30	2	-	-

No defects were found.

There is one out-worker.

RODENT CONTROL

<u>PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS</u>	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
	<u>NON- AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>
1. Number of properties in district	4,381	842
2(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	932	70
2(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 2(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	625	50
(ii) Mice	28	5
3(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,134	58
3(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 3(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	717	10
(ii) Mice	4	1

SEWERS

Seven areas were found to be infested during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Habitable Houses	Number connected to Water Mains	Estimated Population served
Aveton Gifford	251	147	367
Bigbury	224	195	487
Blackawton	173	129	322
Buckland-tout-Saints	59	41	102
Charleton	146	119	297
Chivelstone	145	114	285
Churchstow	126	85	212
East Allington	146	124	310
East Portlemouth	109	93	232
Kingston	133	116	290
Loddiswell	264	225	563
Malborough	346	300	750
Modbury	399	334	835
Ringmore	97	93	232
Sherford	94	58	145
Slapton	185	156	390
South Huish	244	219	547
South Milton	145	128	320
South Pool	118	103	257
Stoke Fleming	377	331	827
Stokenham	649	587	1467
Strete	158	140	350
Thurlestone	342	314	785
West Alvington	205	172	430
Woodleigh	55	36	91
Totals ..	*5190	*4361	*10893

*These figures relate to houses in existence on 31st December, 1968.

WATER SAMPLES

Source of Sample	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	Total
**South West Devon Water Board Mains	242	7	249
Private Supplies	18	28	46
Totals	260	35	295

** These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1968.

GRANTS FOR THE CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT
OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

SECTION 30 HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

	Formal applications received	Applications approved	
		Number of dwellings	Amount of grant
(a) Conversions	-	Owner-occupied dwellings 1) Other dwellings 2)	£
(b) Improvements	-	Owner-occupied dwellings -) Other dwellings -)	1,075

STANDARD GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS
UNDER HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

(a) Applications

Formal Applications received	..	..	..	..	18
Applications approved:					
Owner-occupied dwellings	..	..	..	..	14
Other dwellings	..	..	..	..	4

(b) Grants Paid

Number of dwellings	Total Amount	Number of amenities provided					
		Bath or shower	Wash basins	Hot water	Water closets	Food Store	Septic tanks
9	£1532.19.11.	9	9	7	8	8	-

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT
OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS

Represented	3
Confirmed	3
Not confirmed	-
Demolished	-
Families re-housed	5
Unfit houses made fit	17

